

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

Claim 15 (new). A device for detecting an object or a person, comprising:

at least one illumination unit configured to emit light pulses for illuminating an image field to be captured;

an image capture unit including at least one image sensor configured to receive reflected light pulses from an object or a person in the image field, and to capture image data of the object or the person;

said at least one illumination unit disposed spatially separate from said image capture unit;

one of said separately disposed illumination unit and said image capture unit:

including an optical transmitter configured to emit control light pulses for synchronizing or controlling said units; and

the other one of said separately disposed illumination unit and said image capture unit:

including an optical receiver for receiving the control light pulses.

Claim 16 (new). The device according to claim 15, which further comprises a fiber optic cable for transmitting the control light pulses connected between said optical transmitter and said optical receiver.

Claim 17 (new). The device according to claim 15, which comprises transmission facilities at said optical transmitter and at said optical receiver, for cordless transmission of the control light pulses.

Claim 18 (new). The device according to claim 15, wherein said optical transmitter is a component of said image capture unit.

Claim 19 (new). The device according to claim 15, wherein the control light pulses are transmitted in modulated and/or encoded form.

Claim 20 (new). The device according to claim 15, wherein the control light pulses have a wavelength in a near infra-red range.

Claim 21 (new). The device according to claim 15, wherein said illumination unit is aligned towards the object or the person and, relative to the image capture unit, said illumination unit is oriented at a given angle α .

Claim 22 (new). The device according to claim 21, wherein said given angle α lies in at least one range selected from the range between 0° and 45° and the range between 135° and 180°.

Claim 23 (new). The device according to claim 15, wherein said illumination unit has a power supply independent of a power supply of said image capture unit.

Claim 24 (new). The device according to claim 15, configured for use in an interior of a motor vehicle, with said illumination unit disposed in or on the motor vehicle.

Claim 25 (new). A method of detecting an object or a person, which comprises:

operating the device according to claim 15 for detecting the object or the person.

Claim 26 (new). A method of detecting an object or a person, which comprises:

providing:

at least one illumination unit configured to emit light pulses for
illuminating an image field to be captured;

an image capture unit, disposed spatially separate from the illumination unit, the image capture unit including at least one image sensor for receiving reflected light pulses from an object or a person in the image field and capturing image data related to the object or person;

emitting control light pulses from an optical transmitter, with one of the illumination unit and the image capture unit, for synchronizing or controlling the units; and

receiving the control light pulses through an optical receiver, with the other one of the illumination unit and the image capture unit.

Claim 27 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises detecting an object or a person inside a motor vehicle.

Claim 28 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises transmitting the control light pulses over a fiber optic cable between the optical transmitter and the optical receiver.

Claim 29 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises cordlessly transmitting the control light pulses.

Claim 30 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises transmitting the control light pulses in modulated or encoded form.

Claim 31 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises setting a wavelength of the control light pulses in the near infrared range.

Claim 32 (new). The method according to claim 26, which comprises compensating a time offset by transmitting the control light pulses at an earlier point in time.